

## **To Chop... Or Not To Chop**

*Ask yourself these four questions before lobbing off your locks!*

You feel restless. Ready for a change. And if you're among the throngs of lovely longhairs scrolling through your favorite style blog, wondering if you should scratch your itch for something new by doing something drastic in the hair department, you're not alone. But should you really take the pixie plunge?

To Chop or Not To Chop?! That, ladies is the question.

Cutting your hair can be quite a commitment. Or it could be just the fresh start you need this season. But before you hop a ride on the bob/lob trend train or go full blown Tank Girl to harness that nineties nostalgia, there are a few more detailed questions to consider.

### ***First, what's your motivation?***

We've all heard the stories about (or, okay... *been*) the girl who cuts that ex right out of her hair. Her resulting 'do feels great in the short term (especially with the benefit of a blow out!), but the second it's time for a home shampoo, she's reminded of why she chopped it all off – and mirrors become the enemy.

The moral? If your only goal is to cure whatever ails you, you might want to start simpler than a complete overhaul. Which brings us to question two:

### ***How do you react to change?***

Anything new takes getting used to. It's not just the heartbroken or healing who may find themselves struggling with a dramatically different look. It's alarming when you don't recognize yourself in the mirror. And even if you love your new do, there's bound to be a learning curve involved in making it work. The point? Adjusting takes time. How much do you have? Or how much are you willing to put in rather, which definitely relates to question three:

### ***How high maintenance are you, really?***

Sure, you like to look your best. But are you a wash and go kind of gal or do you really have the patience for hair that requires daily *doing*? Contrary to popular belief, short hair is not always easier hair. In fact, it can be quite the opposite.

While it's true that super short styles – a true pixie or Amber Rose crew cut – require little to nothing in terms of upkeep (aside from a trip to the hairdresser every six weeks or so), anything even a teensy bit longer (from JLaw's crop-top layers all the way to Jessica Alba's lightened lob), can be more complicated. A distinction which will come down to a number of factors, most notably the type of hair you have. Which brings us to our final, most practical question:

### ***What are you working with?***

Sure, we all want to stay current, but optimum hair isn't about following a trend. It's a matter of finding what works for you as an individual. If you have fine, straight hair and go in looking for an updated afro, you're bound to be disappointed. If your face is round or your chin slight and you insist on a pixie cut – you might not like the result.

Bottom line: when flipping through magazines for inspiration, look for models and celebs with cheekbones, chins and hair textures that resemble your own. After all, true beauty – from head to toe – is about maximizing what you've got naturally, rather than trying to be something you're not!